

Amendments to the Specification

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 – line 22 to read as follows:

However, in such conventional biochip readers, if shading (cone-shaped light intensity distribution) is included in excitation light from the light source, non-uniformity is generated in read data. To prevent this, it is suggested to make the ratio of the minimum value of light intensity to its maximum value to be 10 to 20%, by making the amount of shading small using only a center portion of the above conical intensity distribution as shown in FIG. 3. However, there occurs another problem that much light is wasted (the light-utilizing efficiency deteriorates) because this method discards light in the peripheral portion.

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 14 – line 16 to read as follows:

In addition, as a solution to the problems shown in FIG. 3 and FIGS. 4 indicating conventional examples 4A and 4B, the following configuration should be adopted: